



## Texas Department of Health

William R. Archer III, M.D.  
Commissioner of Health

Seafood Safety Division  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, Texas 78756-3199  
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Charles E. Bell, M.D.  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: To obtain "Acceptance" to sell crab meat in Texas processed outside the United States

**No crab meat may be offered for sale for food in the State of Texas unless the crab meat has been processed and packaged in compliance with sections 241.1-241.7 of the Texas Crab Meat Rules that became effective March 1, 1998.**

The following items shall be submitted to the Texas Department of Health, Seafood Safety Division.

1. For sources outside the United States a letter must be provided by a foreign governmental authority(s) that verifies the licensing and inspection and states "The processes involved comply with sections 241.1-241.7 of the Texas Crab Meat Rules, including the HACCP requirements."
2. A copy of a current health licence issued by the appropriate regulating health authority to the crab meat processing plant.
3. A representative label which appears on the containers.
4. The water supply used in processing the crab meat must be sampled and the results, no more than 30 days old, showing good bacteriological quality, shall be submitted to this office. To be acceptable, these qualified laboratory results shall show no coliforms found.
5. Sample results, no more than 30 days old, of each type of crab meat produced by the crab meat plant, shall be submitted to this office, which show an acceptable bacteria level for Standard Plate Count, Staphylococcus Aureus, and Escherichia Coli. The maximums allowed are: S.P.C. = 100,000 MPN/gm.; S.A. = 30 MPN/gm.; and E.C. + 3.6 MPN/gm.
6. A Texas or, at least, a United States mailing address and phone number shall be required.

All information shall be in English (or certifiably translated) and legible. All of the above listed six (6) items shall be submitted annually to obtain acceptance. When the acceptance is granted, it will be in writing and will be mailed to the appropriate address.

When an acceptance is granted, it shall expire each year no later than the last day of February. An acceptance to sell the crab meat in Texas shall be applied for each year and shall be obtained before the last day of February to eliminate any lapse. The acceptance granted is not transferable; meaning, if the U.S. person or U.S. company acting on behalf of the foreign crab meat company ceases to represent the foreign company in Texas, the acceptance automatically expires.

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